

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 Claim 1 (original): A method for monitoring fly height between a magnetic recording
2 medium and a transducing head, comprising:
3 calculating a magnetic spacing change value relative to the recording medium and
4 the transducing head; and
5 adjusting the magnetic spacing change value as necessary to reflect transducing
6 head wear.

1 Claim 2 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said magnetic spacing
2 change value is calculated from media noise sensed on the recording medium.

1 Claim 3 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said media noise is
2 processed so as to be substantially free of electronic power spectra noise generated by
3 read channel circuitry associated with the transducing head.

1 Claim 4 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said magnetic spacing
2 change value is calculated after decomposing said media noise into frequency
3 components using a Fast Fourier Transform conversion process.

1 Claim 5 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said magnetic spacing
2 change value is calculated after decomposing said media noise into frequency
3 components using a spectrum analyzing process.

1 Claim 6 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said magnetic spacing
2 change value is calculated using at least two frequency components of said media noise.

1 Claim 7 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein transducing head wear
2 is determined by measuring transducing head signal amplitude after accounting for
3 changes in amplitude due to conditions other than transducing head wear.

1 Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the transducing
2 head comprises a magnetoresistive (MR) read sensor and transducing head wear is
3 determined by measuring a change in MR stripe height of the read sensor while using
4 measured resistance of a write coil component of the transducing head to correct for
5 temperature drift.

1 Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein a change in fly
2 height is calculated as the difference between the magnetic spacing change value and the
3 change in MR stripe height.

1 Claim 10 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the magnetic
2 recording medium comprises magnetic tape and the transducing head is a tape head.

1 Claims 11-20 (canceled).

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for monitoring fly height between a magnetic
2 recording medium and a transducing head, comprising:
3 sensing media noise on the recording medium; ~~and~~
4 calculating a magnetic spacing change value from the media noise; and
5 adjusting said magnetic spacing change value as necessary to reflect transducing
6 head wear.

1 Claim 22 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said media noise is
2 generated by forming a substantially random pattern of magnetic domains on the
3 recording medium using one of an A.C. erasure technique, a D.C. erasure technique or a
4 bulk erasure technique.

1 Claim 23 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said media noise is
2 processed so as to be substantially free of electronic power spectra noise generated by
3 read channel circuitry associated with the transducing head.

1 Claim 24 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said magnetic
2 spacing change value is calculated after decomposing said media noise into frequency
3 components using a Fast Fourier Transform conversion process.

1 Claim 25 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said magnetic
2 spacing change value is calculated after decomposing said media noise into frequency
3 components using a spectrum analyzing process.

1 Claim 26 (original): A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said magnetic
2 spacing change value is calculated using at least two frequency components of said media
3 noise.

1 Claim 27 (canceled).

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A method in accordance with Claim ~~27~~21 wherein
2 transducing head wear is determined by measuring transducing head signal amplitude
3 after accounting for changes in amplitude due to conditions other than head wear.

1 Claim 29 (currently amended): A method in accordance with Claim ~~27~~21 wherein the
2 transducing head comprises a magnetoresistive (MR) read sensor and transducing head
3 wear is determined by measuring a change in MR stripe height of the read sensor while
4 using measured resistance of a write coil component of the transducing head to correct for
5 temperature drift.

1 Claim 30 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with Claim 29 wherein a change in fly
2 height is calculated as the difference between the magnetic spacing change value and the
3 change in MR stripe height.

1 Claims 31-40 (canceled).